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## BOOK REVIEW

**The life of beetles**, by Glyn Evans. 1975. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. (Hafner Press, A Division of Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 860 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022). Hardbound, 232p., \$15.95.

Although beetles may account for 25% of all animals, books on beetles account for considerably less than 25% of all books written on animals; in fact, probably less than 1%. Since . . . "We live in an age of beetles, and beetles are almost everywhere." . . . good books on the subject are a welcome addition to the literature. Glyn Evans has written a *very good* book on beetles. It is easy to read, and it is a treasure of information for the amateur (and probably for many professional coleopterists). Among the topics covered are morphology, reproduction, metamorphosis, feeding, habits and habitats, and ecology. The chapters on morphology (2), and habits and habitats (5), are especially informative. The latter chapter, for example, contains a most interesting discussion on aquatic adaptations of beetles. Many excellent black and white diagrams supplement the text, and the chapters on morphology and feeding are especially well-illustrated.

The Appendix presents material on pitfall trapping and keys to the beetles most active on the forest floor. Unfortunately for the American reader, the keys are for use in Britain. A short Glossary (4 pages) is followed by 10 pages of "Further Reading" and Bibliography. The literature listed appears to be fairly extensive and applicable. The Index to Genera and Families is fairly adequate—but it does have some omissions.

In spite of a few shortcomings, this volume has many assets. It is crammed with many interesting facts, appropriate literature cited, and helpful diagrams. Although this book has been on the market two years I have not yet seen it listed in American journals. I heartily recommend it to coleopterists in the U.S.A.

—P.P.S.